

WAINSCOTT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Meeting of July 11, 2020

(Remote meeting via Zoom video conference)

Member Attendance

Carolyn Logan Gluck, Chair
Dennis D'Andrea, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Barry Frankel, WCAC Co-Chair Emeritus
Jose Arandia, WCAC Co-Chair Emeritus
Lori Anne Czepiel
Anthony Liberatore
Pam Mahoney
Bruce Solomon
Sally Sunshine
Bill Williams
Phil Young

Elected Officials

- Peter Van Scoyoc, East Hampton Town Supervisor
- Jeff Bragman, East Hampton Town Councilman, Liaison to WCAC

Invited Guests

- Gouri Orekondy Edlich, Chair of Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott (Gouri.edlich@wainscott.org)
- Alec Edlich, Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott
- Joe Gill, Consultant to Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott and Treasurer for the Village of Hempstead, NY

Members of the Public

Rosemary Arnold
Kathleen Begala, Honorary WCAC member
Roz Block
Martin Boorstein
Katy Casy
Lynn Cronin
John Cullen, Northville, NY
Patricia Currie, Say No to KHTO, Noyac

Jim Daigle
Barbara D'Andrea, Wainscott Sewing Society, Chapel
Pat D'Andrea
Vito D'Andrea
Sara Davison, Friends of Georgica Pond
Jean Dodici
Virginia Edwards
Deborah Quincy Egginton

Jose Gabriel Fernandez
Howard Fine
David Fink, WCAC Chair Emeritus
John Finley
Abigail Fleming
Doreen Fox
Michael Friedman
Anne Gilchrist Hall, Friends of
Georgica Pond
Marshall Gluck
John Hall
Michael Hansen
Pamela Harwood, Bridgehampton CAC
Chair
Judith Hope
Yves Istel
Mike Kelley
Simon Kinsella
John Kirrane, Noyac Civil Council
Rona Klopman, Amagansett
Charles Kornblith
Sam Kramer, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Rosemary Kuropat
Tazia Smith
Eric Steinhauser
Jennifer Tanzmann
Candace Wainwright
Jonathan Wainwright
Diana Weir, WCAC Chair Emeritus

Judith Lanier
Francine Lembo
Dawn Lesh
Pat Lowry
Joseph Macal
Susan Macy, WCAC Co-chair Emeritus,
Honorary WCAC member
Michael B. Mahoney
Stephen Martir
Lori Matsukuma
Michael McKeon
Michael Molnar
Richard Myers, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Richard Nevins
Michael O'Neill
Joanne Pilgrim, Executive Assistant to
the Supervisor
Merle Raab
Joan Schlank
Christine Schloder
Lisa Schultz
Lew Sherwood
Carole Slater, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Holly Whitmore
Janice Young
Michael Zambrelli

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Carolyn Logan Gluck, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:16 am and after calling on and inviting to the meeting each participant who had rsvp'd in advance to be on the call.

Invited Guests from Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott with Presentation about Wainscott Incorporation Proposal

Ms. Logan Gluck introduced Gouri Orekondy Edlich, Chair of Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott, and Alex Edlich. Ms. Edlich introduced herself and spoke about her family in Wainscott and the Springs. She discussed how she came to be involved with the incorporation proposal, beginning with the water contamination issues that Wainscott faced then Deepwater's efforts with respect to Wainscott/Wainscott Beach and several other issues that she characterized as "benign neglect of Wainscott over many years." Ms. Edlich noted that additional information is on the organization's website at Wainscott.org.

Ms. Edlich continued with an overview of voter distribution throughout East

Hampton Town, noting the small number of voters in Wainscott and that the Town Board does not have a member that is a Wainscott resident.

Mr. Edlich next provided an overview of certain applicable laws and legal processes relating to the consideration of incorporating as a village. He stated that the proposal the Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott organization has developed is to incorporate an area that is co-terminus with the Wainscott School District boundaries. He discussed the legal timeline for consideration of the incorporation proposal and, if approved by the citizens of Wainscott, for incorporation to take effect. He reviewed various possible village governance elements such volunteers for mayor, board and committee members, and a couple paid employees, as well as how services could be outsourced through intermunicipal agreements or provided by a village.

Mr. Edlich noted that Wainscott is surrounded by incorporated villages, including East Hampton Village, Sagaponack and Sag Harbor. He outlined the types of current and prospective issues that could be influenced and considered by the community through a village self-government structure, including major and other developments, zoning, traffic, noise, the airport, Deepwater, protecting Wainscott's agricultural heritage, water contamination and other community-specific issues.

Mr. Edlich reviewed a summary of various preliminary financial models that the organization is in the early stages of developing and researching, together with financial consultants from the village offices of Hempstead and Edgemont, legal and other advisors that Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott has engaged. He discussed the referendum process and next steps. This included presenting the referendum petition to the Town Supervisor and later public meetings for Wainscott residents to review and discuss in detail the costs, benefits, financial, tax and other community issues before a formal Wainscott community vote anticipated to occur, depending on the timeline, as early as the fourth quarter of 2020 or first quarter of 2021.

Joe Gill, consultant to Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott, next discussed certain aspects of how village incorporation works, including that initially a newly-incorporate village reverts back to New York state laws until it may adopt village-specific laws.

The WCAC board members and WCAC emeritus members then had an opportunity to pose questions to the presenters, including about the following: Sagaponack's experience with incorporation; elements of and assumptions underlying the tax impact and budget analyses that Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott and its consultants are developing; the East Hampton Town tax assessment process; East Hampton Village's experiences; the potential impacts on Wainscott business and commercial property owners; a prior effort to incorporate Wainscott in the 1990s; and other issues.

Then the meeting was opened to questions from the public participants. Chair Logan Gluck asked the public to identify themselves, whether they live in Wainscott or elsewhere and any political or other affiliations related to this topic that would be

considered relevant by the WCAC meeting participants. Public questions focused on issues including the following: whether the Town could take actions to raise Wainscott costs or cause delays in the referendum process; the impact on agricultural properties; experiences in Bridgehampton; impacts on Georgica Pond and the jurisdiction(s) that it would be under; the financial responsibility for municipal improvements or extraordinary expenses if a village were incorporated; and other issues.

In addition, Chair Logan Gluck invited Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc to address the meeting. Supervisor Van Scoyoc noted certain of the complicated financial, zoning and other issues involved. He reviewed his relationship with the WCAC as Town board liaison to the WCAC before he became Town Supervisor, as well as the water contamination issues, the airport, the impact of the pandemic and other issues. Chair Logan Gluck thanked Supervisor Van Scoyoc for his thoughtful insights.

Next Councilman Jeff Bragman was invited to share his insights. Councilman Bragman emphasized that he is at the meeting to listen and found the presentation and discussion interesting. He provided thoughts about capital improvements and the airport.

Chair Logan Gluck concluded the discussion by summarizing the role of the WCAC generally and with respect to this incorporation issue, and thanked the participants for their questions and insights.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Logan Gluck next asked the Board for approval of the May minutes, which was inadvertently overlooked at the June meeting. Co-Chair Emeritus Jose Arandia so moved, and Co-Chair Emeritus Barry Frankel seconded, the approval, which the Board unanimously approved. Chair Logan Gluck asked the Board to approve the June minutes. Member Anthony Liberatore so moved, and member Pamela Mahoney seconded, the approval, which the Board unanimously approved.

Liaison Report: Councilman Jeff Bragman

Chair Logan Gluck asked Councilman Bragman to give a short liaison report.

Airport

Councilman Bragman noted that the Town has been interviewing consultants to advise on certain issues. He expects an airport traffic analysis to be presented at the upcoming Town Board work session. Councilman Bragman then concluded that in light of the length of the meeting, he would leave other topics for the next WCAC monthly meeting.

Other Business

Sam Kramer briefly discussed the status of the Home Sweet Home application.

Chair Logan Gluck next asked the WCAC for a show of hands to approve inviting the Sagaponack Mayor to address the August WCAC meeting, which was approved.

The meeting then was adjourned at 11:32am by a motion made by Chair Emeritus Frankel and approved by Chair Emeritus Arandia.

Next Meeting: August 1, 2020, 9am, via Zoom video conference.